

Region of Responsibility

We thought you might like to know—The Museum of the Cape is one of seven museums in the Division of State History Museums. We are one of three regional museums and our exhibits reflect a 20 county region. This series focuses on the history of those counties within our region of responsibility.



The 20 Counties in alphabetical order:

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| 1. Anson | 11. Moore |
| 2. Bladen | 12. New Hanover |
| 3. Brunswick | 13. Onslow |
| 4. Columbus | 14. Pender |
| 5. Cumberland | 15. Richmond |
| 6. Duplin | 16. Robeson |
| 7. Harnett | 17. Sampson |
| 8. Hoke | 18. Scotland |
| 9. Lee | 19. Stanly |
| 10. Montgomery | 20. Union |

A Brief History of Hoke County

Hoke County developed from portions of Cumberland and Robeson counties. After two attempts failed to create the county, it was finally established in 1911. The county is named for Robert F. Hoke who was a Confederate general, and then after the war, he became director of the North Carolina Railroad.

Originally residing in present-day Hoke County were the Cheraw and Lumbee American Indians and a large population of Lumbee still call the county home. Since part of Hoke County derived from Cumberland, it already contained a number of Scottish settlers. Many place names in the county reflect this.

The Fort Bragg reservation takes up the northern third of the county. On the reservation, but also within the counties border is the site of a Civil War skirmish—Monroe's Crossroads. This cavalry engagement is best known for Union General Judson Kilpatrick's "Shirttail Skedaddle." He was caught unaware, as the nickname suggests, but his troops were victorious in the end. Leading up to the Battle of Monroe's Crossroads, Union troops under General Sherman marched through the county on its way to the North Carolina Arsenal in Fayetteville.

Raeford, the county seat, has the distinction of having the first medical school in the state. Edenborough Medical College was started by Hector McLean. Two of its graduates founded McNeill's Pharmacy, North Carolina's oldest pharmacy, which is located in Whiteville.

In the latter part of the twentieth century, Hoke County helped establish North Carolina as the leading producer of turkeys. The processing plant employed a large number of its residents. From this came the North Carolina Turkey Festival. Today, it is called the North Carolina Fall Festival with an attendance of 60,000 visitors.

